

# News

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**BLS 04-15**  
**FOR RELEASE:**  
**Friday, February 20, 2004**

## **PORTLAND-SALEM CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.3 PERCENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2003—1.4 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO**

Consumer prices in the Portland metropolitan area rose 0.3 percent in the second half of 2003 and 1.4 percent from one year prior, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Acting Regional Commissioner Nancy Treadwell said that rising food and beverage prices, followed by education and communication prices, were largely responsible for the overall six-month increase. For the year, however, transportation was the major contributor to the increase in Portland's consumer basket of goods. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 186.5 (1982-84=100) during the second half of 2003. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$186.50 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Prices for food and beverages rose 1.1 percent in the second half of 2003. Grocery prices, as represented by the food at home index, increased 1.6 percent, while the price of food away from home increased 1.1 percent during the last six months of 2003. Prices paid for alcoholic beverages in the second half of 2003 rose 0.3 percent. For the past 12 months, the food and beverage index rose 3.4 percent.

Prices for education and communication climbed 2.1 percent during the second half of 2003, the largest semi-annual increase for this category since the expenditure category was revised in 1998. For the 12-month period, the education and communication index advanced 1.8 percent.

The overall transportation index moved up 0.5 percent in the second half of 2003 and rose 4.1 percent for the past 12 months. Average gasoline pump prices declined 0.5 percent in the past six months. Compared to a year ago, however, Portland drivers' gasoline prices have jumped 16.7 percent.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 0.5 percent in the past six months, and 4.7 percent over the year.

Medical care prices increased 0.3 percent since the first half of 2003, the smallest increase since the index declined 0.3 percent during a six-month period ending October 1971. Compared to the second

half of 2002, medical care prices advanced 2.1 percent, the smallest annual increase since April 1972 (2.0 percent).

The overall housing index edged down 0.1 percent during the second half of 2003 and measured 0.6 percent lower from the same period in 2002. In the past six months, household furnishings and operations prices were down 1.6 percent, contributing to the overall decline in the housing index. In the same period, the shelter component of housing edged up 0.2 percent. Also for the second half of 2003, fuels and utilities prices increased 1.3 percent; with utility (piped) gas service outpacing electricity rates, 4.0 and 0.6 percent, respectively. Compared to a year ago, shelter declined 0.4 percent, fuels and utilities decreased 0.2 percent, and household furnishings and operations prices fell 1.8 percent.

The recreation index declined 0.4 percent in the past six months, but measured 0.7 percent higher in the past 12 months.

Apparel prices fell 3.9 percent in the second half of 2003. Furthermore, average apparel prices were 3.0 percent below the price level measured for the latest twelve month period.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Portland-Salem<sup>1</sup>, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2003 from-	
	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
Expenditure category					
All items .....	184.0	186.0	186.5	1.4	0.3
All items (October 1967=100) .....	538.8	544.7	546.0	-	-
Food and beverages .....	162.9	166.6	168.5	3.4	1.1
Food .....	163.2	167.2	169.3	3.7	1.3
Food at home .....	160.1	165.4	168.0	4.9	1.6
Food away from home .....	170.8	172.8	174.7	2.3	1.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	160.9	160.9	161.4	0.3	0.3
Housing .....	186.4	185.4	185.3	-0.6	-0.1
Shelter .....	212.8	211.4	211.9	-0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence .....	198.4	198.2	198.3	-0.1	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	221.3	220.6	221.3	0.0	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....	176.5	173.9	176.2	-0.2	1.3
Fuels .....	150.2	146.6	148.6	-1.1	1.4
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	189.8	183.9	186.7	-1.6	1.5
Electricity .....	207.7	204.7	205.9	-0.9	0.6
Utility natural gas service .....	146.6	136.4	141.8	-3.3	4.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	113.0	112.8	111.0	-1.8	-1.6
Apparel .....	118.6	119.8	115.1	-3.0	-3.9
Transportation .....	165.2	171.2	172.0	4.1	0.5
Private transportation .....	164.0	170.4	170.7	4.1	0.2
Motor fuel .....	124.7	146.2	145.4	16.6	-0.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	125.0	146.7	145.9	16.7	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	122.3	144.6	143.5	17.3	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	107.5	125.0	125.7	16.9	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	122.4	141.8	140.5	14.8	-0.9
Medical care .....	287.6	292.7	293.5	2.1	0.3
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	106.8	107.9	107.5	0.7	-0.4
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	102.6	102.3	104.4	1.8	2.1
Other goods and services .....	329.3	343.2	344.9	4.7	0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Portland-Salem<sup>1</sup>, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2003 from-	
	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
Commodity and service group					
All items .....	184.0	186.0	186.5	1.4	0.3
Commodities .....	146.3	149.3	148.1	1.2	-0.8
Commodities less food and beverages .....	137.4	140.2	137.4	0.0	-2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	143.8	150.5	148.3	3.1	-1.5
Durables .....	126.4	125.5	122.2	-3.3	-2.6
Services .....	222.0	223.0	225.0	1.4	0.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care .....	178.7	180.6	181.1	1.3	0.3
All items less shelter .....	173.7	176.9	177.6	2.2	0.4
Commodities less food .....	138.2	140.8	138.1	-0.1	-1.9
Nondurables .....	152.8	157.9	157.8	3.3	-0.1
Nondurables less food .....	144.5	150.6	148.6	2.8	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	237.6	241.5	246.4	3.7	2.0
Services less medical care services .....	218.2	218.9	220.9	1.2	0.9
Energy .....	135.3	144.3	144.8	7.0	0.3
All items less energy .....	190.4	191.9	192.3	1.0	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	197.2	198.2	198.1	0.5	-0.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes - Oregon portion: Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill Counties. Washington Portion: Clark County only.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1994=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.